
**EARTHWORK SURVEY ON LAND
AT VALE ROAD,
SPILSBY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(VRS 15)**

**Work Undertaken For
BWB Environment Group**

March 2015

Report Compiled by
Mark Peachey BA (Hons)

National Grid Reference: TF 40113 65900
City and County Museum Accession No: LCNCC: 2015.56
OASIS ID No: archaeo11-207278

Report No: **34/15**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



Quality Control

Earthwork Survey
on land at Vale Road,
Spilsby,
Lincolnshire
VRS 15

Project Coordinator	Gary Taylor
Surveyors	Andrew Failes, Chris Moulis
CAD Illustration	Mark Dymond, Mark Peachey
Photographic Reproduction	Mark Peachey
Post-excavation Analyst	Mark Peachey

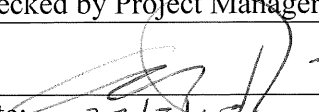
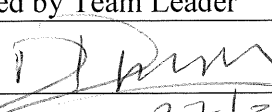
Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Team Leader
 Gary Taylor	 Denise Drury
Date: 27/3/15	Date: 27/3/15

Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Plates

1.	SUMMARY	1
2.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.1	BACKGROUND.....	1
2.2	TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY.....	1
2.3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING	1
4.	METHODS	2
5.	RESULTS	2
6.	CONCLUSION	2
7.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	2
8.	PERSONNEL	3
9.	BIBLIOGRAPHY	3
10.	ABBREVIATIONS	3

Appendices

1. Glossary
2. The Archive

List of Figures

Figure 1 General location plan

Figure 2 Site location plan

Figure 3 Earthwork survey

Figure 4 Site profiles

List of Plates

Plate 1 General view of site looking north

Plate 2 Ridge and furrow cultivation looking northwest

Plate 3 Possible quarry looking SSW

Plate 4 Probable former tennis lawn looking WNW

1. SUMMARY

Earthwork survey was undertaken in advance of residential development on land at Vale Road, Spilsby, Lincolnshire.

The investigation was carried out due to the site's location in an area of archaeological significance with upstanding medieval ridge and furrow cultivation having been previously observed.

Ridge and furrow cultivation was recorded at the site along with a former field boundary, a possible quarry and the probable site of a late 19th century tennis lawn.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by BWB Environment Group, to undertake an archaeological survey in advance of residential development on land at Vale Road, Spilsby, Lincolnshire. This was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation prepared by BWB Environment Group and approved by Lincolnshire Heritage Environment Service (BWB 2015). The survey was carried out on 19th March 2015.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Spilsby lies at the south end of the Lincolnshire Wolds, approximately 25km north of Boston and 15km southeast of Horncastle in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site lies 200m south of the High Street at National Grid Reference TF 40113 65900 (Fig. 2). It is an area of open ground north of Vale Road bounded on three sides by residential development. It comprises

undulating pasture at a height of *c.* 35-37m OD.

The local geology largely comprises Kimmeridge Clay Formation which consists of sedimentary mudstone. Spilsby Sandstone Formation also exists within the site (BGS 1995).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Spilsby lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the present. Prehistoric artefacts, including a polished flint axe and a socketed axe, have been found in the parish. Additionally, a major Late Iron Age settlement is located in the area, evident as an artefact scatter with numerous coins of the period (May 1984, 22).

An Anglo-Saxon glass bead and medieval pottery have previously been found in the parish.

Spilsby is first referred to in the Domesday Book of 1086 and the place-name derives from the Old Scandinavian *Spillir's by*, meaning 'Spillir's homestead or village' (Cameron 1998, 115). At the time of Domesday, Spilsby formed part of a large manor with Eresby and Thorpe St Peter. This manor, which was held by the Bishop of Durham, had two mills (Foster and Longley 1976, 33).

Spilsby is a medieval planned market town (Everson and Hayes 1984, 39) and still retains much of its original structure. In 1302 Spilsby obtained its market charter and the Market Cross dates from the 14th century (Jacques nd, 3).

A chapel in Spilsby is referred to in 1291 and was endowed in the 14th century with construction of a chancel (Marjoram 1984, 79). This became the parish church of St. James which dates from the 14th century and was founded as a college for priests (DoE 1987, 33).

Earthworks within the site were interpreted as ridge and furrow of probable late medieval origin by the National Mapping Programme between 1992 and 1996. The site is shown on the 1888 1:2500 OS map comprising two fields with a tennis lawn within the western field. This is not shown on the 1906 OS map (BWB 2015).

3. AIMS

The aim of the Earthwork Survey was to record and plot the extant ridge and furrow agricultural system within the proposed development area. This was to be achieved by undertaking a topographic survey of the features.

4. METHODS

Survey was undertaken using a Sokkia GPS in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 2007). Survey points were recorded along the crests of ridges and at the top and bottom of other significant breaks of slope. The survey was undertaken in dry weather conditions with a low angled sun and good visibility aided by fairly short grass on the earthworks.

5. RESULTS

The survey results are presented in Figures 3 and 4 supplemented by Plates 1-4. Figure 3 shows possible earthwork remains in plan and Figure 4 in profile.

A broad area of east-west aligned former ridge and furrow cultivation was identified across the southern part of the site, measuring 65m east-west by 34m north-south (Fig 4, Profiles 1 and 2; Plate 2). This was gentler and less marked in profile than examples of this type of earthwork often are. The ridges were between 6.5m and 9.5m apart and the furrows were up to 0.42m in depth. A fainter north-south

aligned ridge and furrow pattern was noted in the northeast part of the site (Fig 4, Profile 3). This was up to 80m north to south and 21m east-west. Here, the ridges were 7.5m to 8.5m apart and up to 0.35m in depth.

In the southeast part of the site was a depression which may have been a former quarry (Fig 5, Profile 2; Plate 3).

In the northwest part of the site was a rectangular flat area which is most probably the tennis court shown on the 1888 1:2500 OS map (Fig 4, Profile 1; Plate 4). In the centre of the site, a north-south field boundary marked on the 1888 map, and still present on the 1972 1:2500 OS map, could also be made out.

A trackway, in current use, extended from near the southwest corner of the site, curving towards the north (Fig 4, Profiles 1-3).

Other slight linear hollows, cutting across, and therefore later than, the ridge and furrow in the central and eastern parts of the site were also recorded. These are of uncertain function and origin, though those in the eastern part of the site are narrow and may mark field drains.

6. CONCLUSION

Earthwork survey was undertaken on land at Vale Road, Spilsby, Lincolnshire, in advance of proposed residential development at the site. The survey recorded the previously identified ridge and furrow cultivation, a former field boundary, a depression which may have been a quarry, and the probable site of a late 19th century tennis lawn.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of BWB

Environment Group who commissioned the work. The project was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited the report along with Denise Drury.

May, J, 1984 'Major Settlements of the Later Iron Age in Lincolnshire', in N Field and A White (eds), *A Prospect of Lincolnshire*

8. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Surveyors: Andrew Failes, Chris Moulis
 Photographic reproduction: Mark Peachey
 CAD Illustration: Mark Dymond, Mark Peachey
 Post-survey analysis: Mark Peachey

10. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
 BGS British Geological Survey

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS, 1995 *Horncastle, Solid and Drift Edition*, 1:50,000 sheet **115**

BWB 2015 *Specification for the Recording of Ridge and Furrow Earthworks, Vale Road, Spilsby*

Cameron, K, 1998 *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*, English Place-Name Society Popular Series Vol. **1**

DoE, 1987 *List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, District of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire*

English Heritage 2007 *Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes: A guide to good recording practice*

Everson, P and Hayes, T, 1984 'Lincolnshire from the Air', in N Field and A White (eds), *A Prospect of Lincolnshire*

Foster, CW and Longley, T (eds), 1976 *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey*, The Lincoln Record Society **19**

Jacques, JH, nd *Spilsby and its Church*

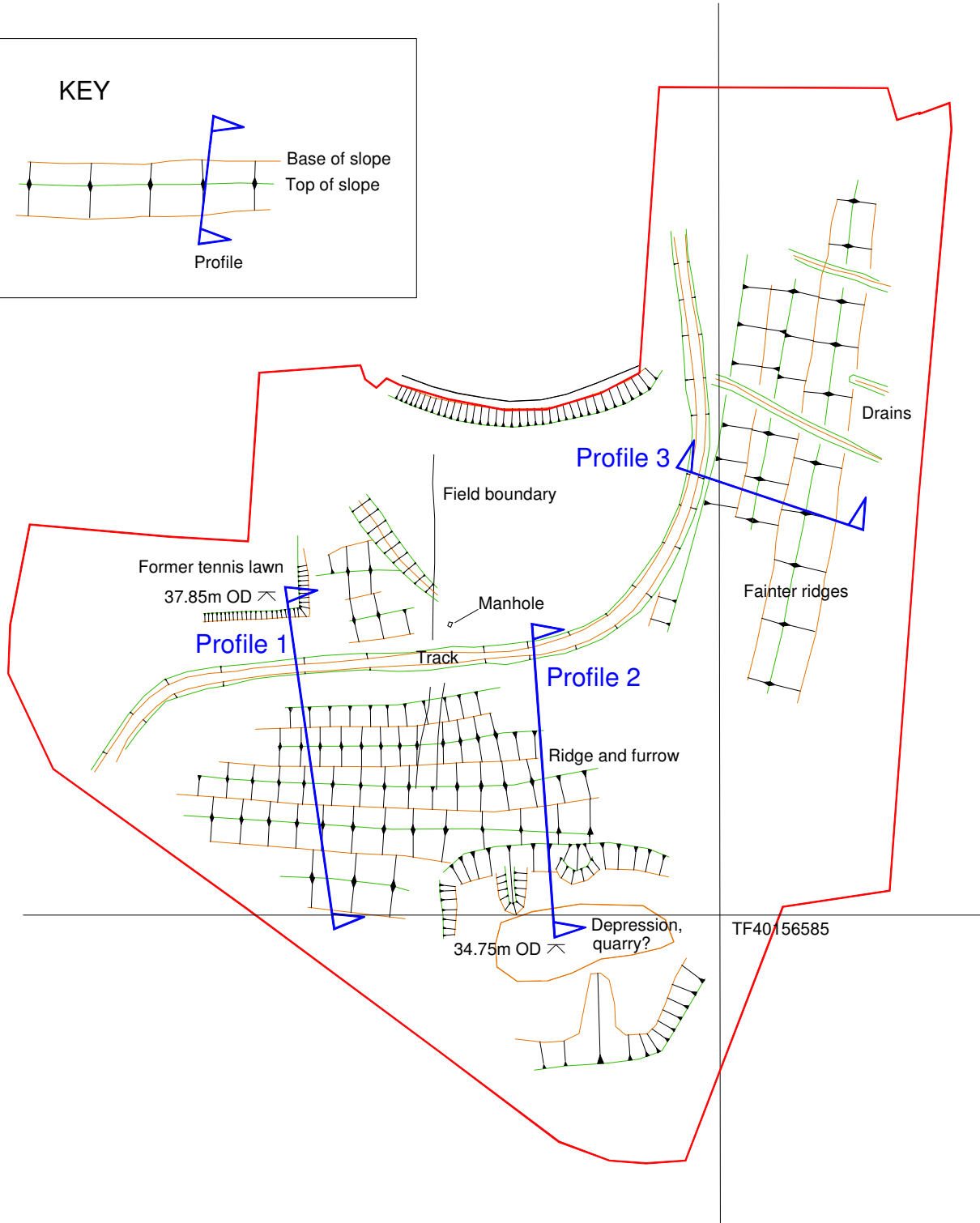
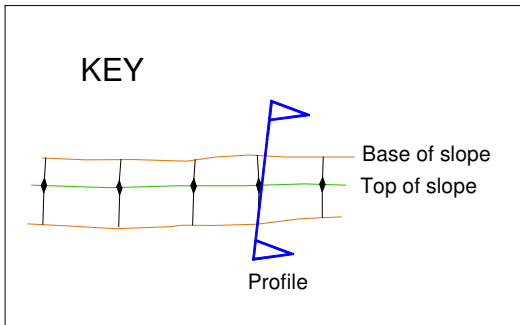
Marjoram, J, 1984 'Eresby Manor House, Spilsby', in N. Field and A. White (eds), *A Prospect of Lincolnshire*



Figure 1 - General location plan



Figure 2. Site location plan




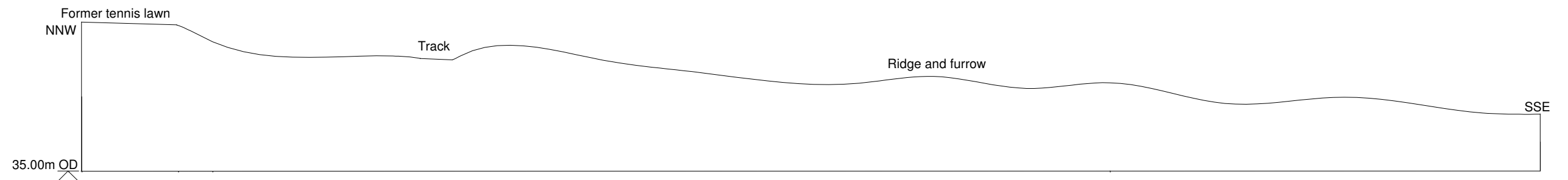
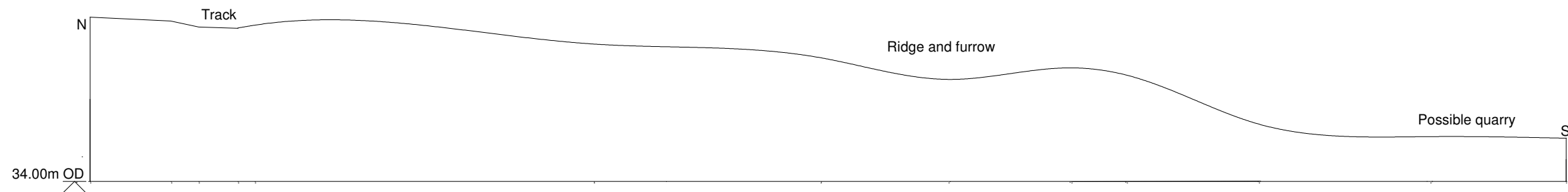
	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Spilsby Vale Road VRS 15		
Scale 1:1000	Drawn by: MJP	Report No: 34/15

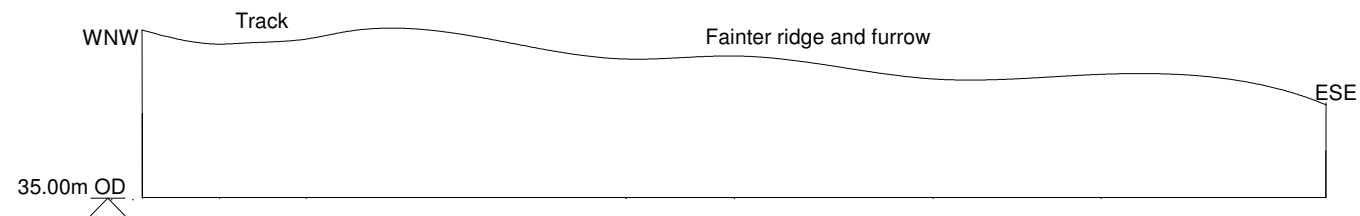
Figure 3. Earthwork survey



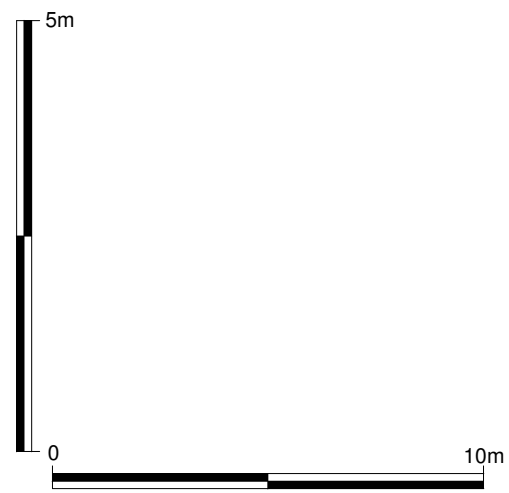
Profile 1



Profile 2



Profile 3




	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Spilsby Vale Road VRS 15		
Scale: 1:175	Drawn by: MD/MJP	Report No: 34/15

Figure 4. Site profiles



Plate 1. General view of site looking north



Plate 2. Ridge and furrow cultivation looking northwest



Plate 3. Possible quarry looking SSW



Plate 4. Probable former tennis lawn looking WNW

Appendix 1

GLOSSARY

Anglo-Saxon	Pertaining to the period when Britain was occupied by peoples from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. The period dates from approximately AD 450-1066.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Ridge and Furrow	The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture.

Appendix 2

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

2	Photographic record sheets
1	Daily record sheet
1	Plan record sheet
1	Sketch plan
1	GPS survey

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

The Collection
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

Accession Number:	LCNCC: 2015.56
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	VRS 15
OASIS record number	archaeo11-207278

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: archaeol1-207278

Project details

Project name	Earthwork Survey at Vale Road, Spilsby, Lincolnshire
Short description of the project	An earthwork survey on an area of pasture within the town of Spilsby recorded probable late medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, a possible former quarry and the site of a late 19th century tennis lawn.
Project dates	Start: 19-03-2015 End: 19-03-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	VRS15 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	LCNCC:2015.56 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 3 - Disturbed
Monument type	RIDGE AND FURROW Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Full survey"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE EAST LINDSEY SPILSBY Land at Vale Road
Postcode	PE23 5NJ
Study area	15000.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 40113 65900 53.1714304435 0.0964465530785 53 10 17 N 000 05 47 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 35.00m Max: 37.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Project Services
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator	Gary Taylor
Project director/manager	Gary Taylor
Project supervisor	Andrew Failes, Chris Moulis
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	BWB Environmental Group

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	n/a
Physical Contents	"other"
Digital Archive recipient	The Collection
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	The Collection
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Photograph", "Report", "Survey "

Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Earthwork Survey on land at Vale Road, Spilsby, Lincolnshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Peachey, M.
Other bibliographic details	34/15
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Archaeological Project Serbices
Place of issue or publication	Heckington
Description	A4 comb bound
Entered by	Mark Peachey (info@apsarchaeology)
Entered on	30 March 2015